Request to amend Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948

1527. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have requested the Central Government to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 in order to attract Private Sector and Non-Resident Indians to Power Generation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of facilitating the participation of the private sector in power generation is receiving attention and the necessary modalities in this regard are being examined.

Pending gas based power stations in Maharashtra

1528. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the proposals for setting up of gas based power stations in Maharashtra which are pending with the Central Government for sanction;

(b) since when these are pending and what are the reasons for the delay project-wise; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for the early clearance of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The requisite information is as follows:—

(i) waste Heat Recovery Units-II & III (of 120 MW each) at the Uran gas turbine power statoin;

(ii) Dabhol gas turbine Combined Cycle (GTCC) Power Project (760 MW);

(iii) Trombay GTCC Power Project (180 MW).

(b) and (c) While invest approval in respect of the Waste Heat Recovery Unit-II has been accorded in December, 1987, Unit-III could be considered for investment decision after the gas linkage for the same has been established.

The proposals relating to the gas turbine Combined Cycle Power projects at Dabhol and Trombay—which were received in the CEA in March, 1989—could be processed further after the various inputs, including the availability of gas, are tied up and the requisite clearances have been obtained.

Demands raised by Maharashtra Government in Energy Ministers' Conference

1529. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what were the demands made by Government of Maharashtra in the last Energy Ministers' Conference held recently; and

(b) what is the reaction of the Central Government to each of the demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) During the Conference of Power Ministers of States held on the 23rd and 24th January, 1989, some of the important issues raised by the Government of Maharashtra related to regular payment by concerned States for sale of power by Maharashtra to them, sanctioning of new power projects including Gas based stations for benefits during the Eighth Plan period, permission for raising of Bonds by Maharashtra State Electricity Board, high rates of interest charged by Rural Electrification Corporation, expediting clearances to power projects from Environment and Forest angles, encouraging private sector participation in the generation of power, and increasing the upper limit for clearance of projects by State Electricity Boards without reference to the Central Electricity Authority, to Rs. 10 crores.

(b) On the basis of the various suggestions made by different States including Maharashtra, several recommendations were made by the Conference to attend to the problems being faced in the development of the Power Sector in the country, including Maharashtra. The main recommendations related to measures for ensuring a capacity addition of about 38,000 MW in the 8th Plan, improving the management and financial performance of State Electricity Boards, expeditious clearance of 8th Plan projects from environmental and forest angles, implementation of a programme for energy conservation, encouragement to private sector participation in the generaton of power, a greater role for renewable sources of energy, setting up of a National Grid, and greater emphasis on gas based projects.

Government have initiated action on the recommendations made at the Conference.

Guidelines for transporting processing and marketing of Natural Gas

1530. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 74 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been prepared relating to transporting, processing and marketing of natural gas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Appropriation instructions are issued wherever necessary from time to time in regard to transporting, processing and marketing of natural gas.

Barauni Oil Refinery

1531. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Barauni Oil Refinery has presently been operating at below capacity due to inadequate crude availability from the Assam Oil fields;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not providing facilities to process the imported crude;

(c) whether any feasibility report was prepared for increasing the capacity of Barauni Refinery; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The crude oil production from the North-Eastern sector is expected to increase in future and the Barauni Refinery is expected to receive adequate crude for processing. In view of this, putting up of facilities for processing of imported crude at Barauni was not considered.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It was not considered necessary to expand the capacity of Barauni Refinery taking into account the availability of crude oil.

Allotment of New LPG Connection in the Country

1532. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new customers were provided LPG connections in the country during the last three years and the number of customers anticipated to be allotted new LPG connections in the current year; and

(b) how many new customers are anticipated to be provided with LPG connections in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The customer enrolment during the last 3 years is given below:

1986-87 . .	. 17.08 lakhs
1987-88 . .	. 14.37 lakhs
1988-89 . .	. 11.56 lakhs
1989-90 . .	. 10.00 lakhs (proposed)